

Eagle Rock Loop

Ouachita National Forest



Hiking: All trails



Biking: All trails



Equestrian:
Viles Branch



Trail Highlights: This trail offers the longest loop trail in Arkansas. A combination of the **Little Missouri**, the **Athens-Big Fork** and part of the **Viles Branch Horse Trail**, this trail travels through the southwestern portion of the Ouachita National Forest. Trail difficulty ranges from easy to most difficult. The trail has numerous river, stream and creek crossings and travels over nine mountains.

Surrounding Areas:

- **Albert Pike Recreation Area** is open seasonally and offers swimming, picnicking, and fishing opportunities.
- **Little Missouri Falls**, a forested picnic area, offers fishing and a trail to a waterfall overlook.
- **Bard Springs**, a 17-unit campground (no utilities) on a scenic stream.
- **Shady Lake Recreation Area**, another well-developed recreation area on a small scenic lake that offers swimming, camping and fishing opportunities.
- For more hiking experiences in the area try the **Caney Creek Trails**.

For More Information:

Caddo Ranger Station
912 Smokey Bear Lane
Glenwood, AR 71943

(870) 356-4186

Length: 26.8 miles - 2 to 3 days travel time one way.

History: This trail was developed along a 100 year-old postal route and old wagon roads in partnership with the Forest Service, the Student Conservation Association, Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society and the Little Missouri Trails Council.

Surface type: Unsurfaced.

Trail Markings: White rectangles.

Water: Treat all lake and stream water before drinking.

Access: There are 5 trailheads:

- Albert Pike Recreation Area off Highway 369 (closed to overnight parking until further notice).
- Winding Stairs 2.1 miles west of Albert Pike on Forest Road 106
- Little Missouri Falls on Forest Road 25
- Upper Little Missouri Falls 4 miles west of Little Missouri Falls on Forest Road 25
- Middle Athens-Big Fork east of Bard Springs Recreation Area on Forest Road 106

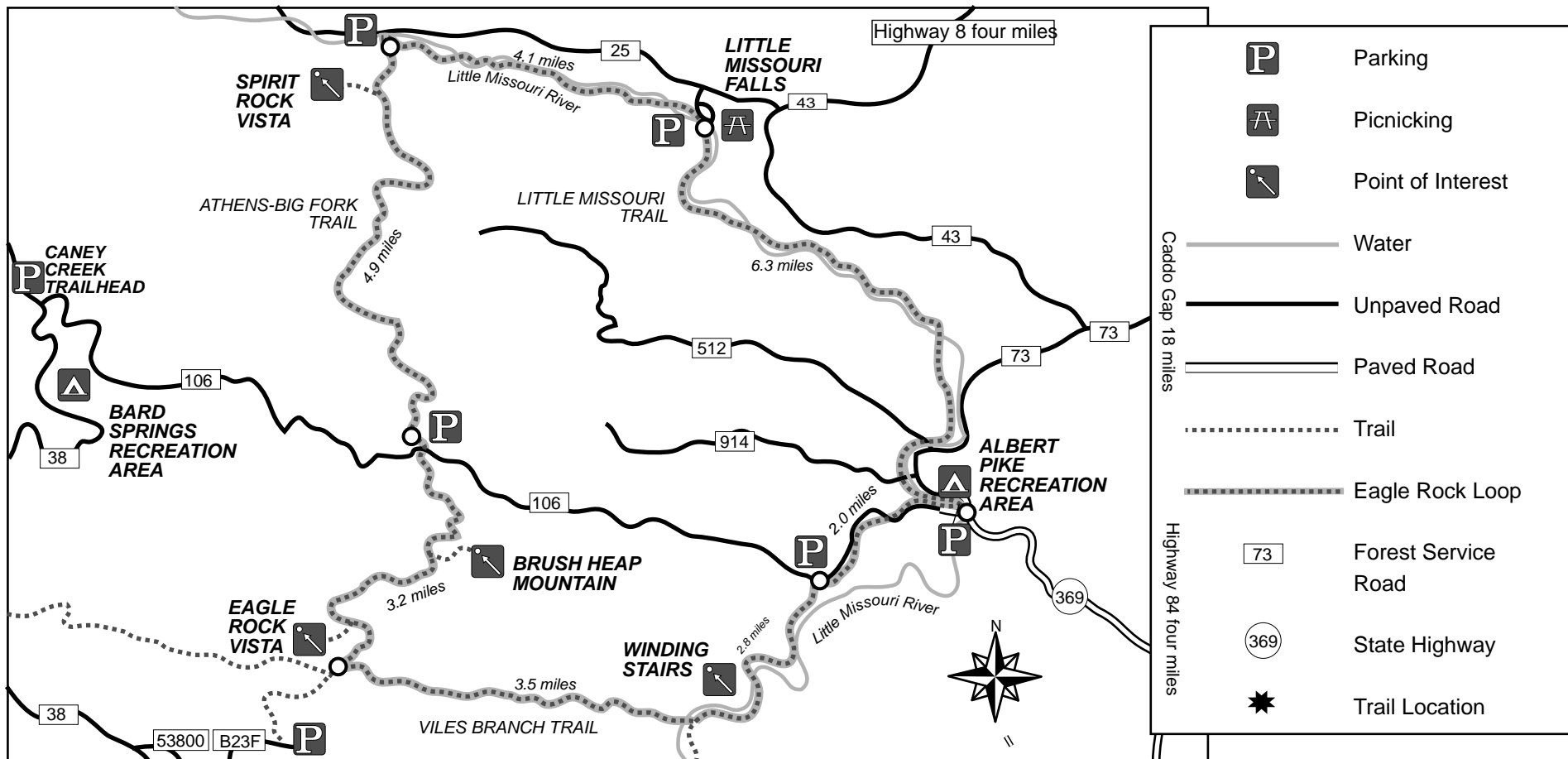
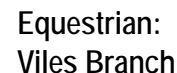
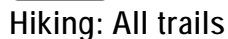
Safety: Be careful when crossing rivers and creeks during periods of high water.

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Ouachita National Forest



Eagle Rock Loop is very difficult with a lot of steep and vigorous vertical activity (one leg alone crosses six ridges in eight miles, each between 500 - 800 feet). The Loop also has numerous tricky creek crossings, almost certainly requiring wet crossings in March and April, and one ford of the Little Missouri River that can be 50 yards wide. Many experienced hikers consider the Loop a "test" of hiking skill and about the most difficult Arkansas has to offer. If you think you (and your group or family) can handle all that, the Loop is a great hike with scenery, vistas, a large-volume cascading waterfall, and beautiful bluffs around the Albert Pike campground.

USGS 7.5 minute Quadrangles: *Athens, Big Fork*